

1867 ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHTH COMMENCEMENT 2005

# THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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## Congratulations to the MBA Class of 2005



### The Senior Class Gift For 2005: Two First-Edition Copies of James Joyce's *Ulysses*

by JOSH SUMISLAWSKI  
Staff Writer, Editor of The Bell

As the school year draws to a close, one of the highlights of each end-of-the-ceremony has been the senior class gift. No, it's not another park-bench or water-fountain. Instead, this year the senior class has given the school two first-edition cop-

ies of Irishman James Joyce's *Ulysses*, a modern version of Homer's *Odyssey*, that traces a single day in the lives of three Dublin citizens. The work is considered by many to be the most influential literary work of the twentieth century.

One of the copies is the original print that appeared in Europe in 1922, published by the Parisian bookstore

Shakespeare & Company. It possesses a large historical significance since it is one of only 750 books actually printed. In fact, because the general public felt that *Ulysses* was in many ways obscene, nonsensical, and pornographic, many copies were destroyed, making the one MBA now owns even rarer.

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### MBA Alumnus Richard Speight, Jr.

### Headlines Commencement Ceremony

by KEVIN SEITZ  
Assistant Features Editor

We watched Richard Speight, Jr. die in 2001, as Warren "Skip" Muck of the HBO mini-series "Band of Brothers," but the 1988 MBA-grad has returned to deliver this year's commencement address for the class of 2005. Having since gained a recognized prominence on the screen, Speight has played small roles in everything from "CSI: Miami," "Alias," "JAG," and "ER," to *Speed 2: Cruise Control*, and *Ernest Goes to Camp*, as well as those roles for which he has become best known in "Band of Brothers," "The Agency," and a series of IBM commercials.

Recalling his six years on the Hill fondly, he said, "I was very into sports; I wasn't very good, but I loved playing football and running track. I also enjoyed student government, and, obviously, theater.

But that, I did over at Harpeth Hall. There was no theater or theater department when I was there... I had Dr. Crowell, much to his chagrin, I'm afraid. Science was never my thing."

From a very early age, however, acting was to be his goal. "I decided when I was 15 that I would be going to college in California, majoring in acting, and pursuing acting as a career. I was that certain that early on." So from the small roles of "boy carrying fish" in local Nashville shoots, he graduated to the University of Southern California, "and I wanted to do it (acting) in Los Angeles, so going to college there seemed like a logical first step. And I think it paid off... I would have eventually ended up here anyway, so it all worked out."

In the difficult arena of acting, along with the "focus and discipline" he attributes to MBA, fate has dealt Speight a number of

better hands to land him where he is: "I've been fortunate to be able to make a living in a very fickle field. 'Band of Brothers' has been one of the highlights. I was blown away... I still hang out with many of the writers and actors. I developed some great friends on that job... and that rarely happens." Still enjoying music, body boarding, and acting in California, he insists his life is not all that different. "Getting the job is the hard part," he says. "Doing the job is pure fun."

The role of honorary speaker is usually reserved for those much older, but Speight stands significantly accomplished despite his relatively young age. As for his speech? "You'll just have to wait and hear. And I don't try to guess what people might or might not take away from it. I just try to speak honestly and say what I mean and let the listeners decide for themselves."

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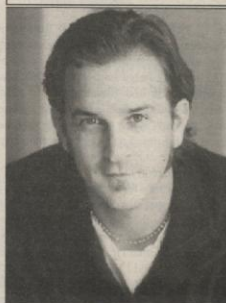
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Richard Speight, Jr. was MBA Senior Class President in 1988.





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The Bell Ringer is a non-profit newspaper operated and published by and for the students of Montgomery Bell Academy, who are its intended audience. Views expressed in The Bell Ringer do not necessarily represent those held by the staff or school.

Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to its office, the Faculty Advisors, the Editors, or sent to bellringer@mc.montgomerybell.com (simply type "Bell Ringer" into First Class). These letters must be signed. The Bell Ringer neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

The staff of The Bell Ringer prepares all copy, headlines, and photographs at Montgomery Bell Academy. Franklin Web Printing in Franklin, Tennessee, prints the paper.

## Senior Class Gift

*continued from p. 1*

The second copy is the first-edition print in the United States. Like its European counterpart, this 1935 copy underwent the same scrutiny and was even outlawed until in 1933 New York Judge John Woolsey ruled that the work was not pornographic and lifted the ban. In addition to the years of controversy that have surrounded *Ulysses* in the United States, this copy is just as interesting to students as the other since it is illustrated and signed by the early-twentieth-century expressionist artist Henri Matisse.

Apparently, MBA's purchasing of these texts has been in the works for a number of years, with the hopes of developing a special-collections section of the library. This gift is primarily the end result of the efforts of Headmaster Gioia and MBA's own Irish guru, Mr. Kelly. "The *Ulysses* book came to be after I traveled to Ireland with Mr. Kelly," Mr. Gioia said, "He and I share an interest in Irish literature, and the large number of senior boys going to Ireland gave me the idea that there are good connections with Ireland [and MBA]."

Those who have pushed for the purchasing of these

## Letter to the Editor:

Hunter Branstetter's article in Issue 7 of *The Bell Ringer* (March 17th) is probably the best editorial piece I've read since I started reading the MBA paper when I was a freshman. In fact, I think it's more concise and insightful than the vast majority of op-ed pieces I read in the student daily of my university.

The overall quality of *The Bell Ringer* truly impresses me, and I am not ashamed to say that it's a superior publication to the one I edited three years ago. The Modest Proposals from an earlier issue which Hunter discussed were themselves excellent, if only for their courage and willingness to take an unpopular stance.

I realize that I am still a very young alumnus and full of naive ideas, but I encourage you strongly to allow the student writers and editors as much leeway as possible to express themselves freely and to challenge themselves and their readers to explore issues that often are ignored or swept under the rug on a high school campus. Controversy for the sake of controversy is unnecessary, but I think there are many worthy debates that *The Bell Ringer* can facilitate, even if some members of the community would rather stifle discussion of uncomfortable topics.

Sincerely,  
Michael Pass

Michael was Co-Editor-in-Chief of *The Bell Ringer* in 2001-2002.

## The Bell Ringer Announces 2005-2006 Editors

The *Bell Ringer* has selected a new slate of editors for the upcoming school year, choosing students who have worked throughout this year to support the paper's present editors and to im-

prove the quality (and the quantity) of high-school journalism at MBA. They promise to steer *The Bell Ringer* to even greater heights; thus it is our pleasure to officially announce the newspaper's rising leadership:

### Editor-in-Chief

Kevin Seitz

### Sports Editors

Justin Hall  
Allen Riley

### News Editors

David Wheeler  
Taylor Shope

### Features Editors

Eric Hagemeyer  
Alec McGuffey

### Entertainment Editor

John Rocco  
Kevin Thomas

### Business Manager

Hunter Kopald

books all year long feel as though *Ulysses* and its history possess some of the central ideas of this very school. The main issues surrounding *Ulysses* – freedom of speech and ideas, its creativity and innovation, and its reliance on the classics while remaining both modern and unique – are also issues that play significant roles in the tradition of daily learning at MBA. "It is fitting that this 1922 edition of Joyce's *Ulysses* now resides at Montgomery Bell Academy, a school that encourages students to test the limits of knowledge, to embrace fresh and original perspectives," according to Mr. Gioia. "We are proud to be associated with a great work whose history is a constant reminder to us that free speech and open discussion of ideas must always be a part of this country."

Given the recent tragedies that have occurred over the past

month at MBA, the senior class has also decided to dedicate these books in honor and memory of Austin Burchett, Ro Cheadle, and Trevor Yarbrough, who died two weeks ago.

The money for this gift has been raised primarily by a group of seniors, under the leadership of Jon Waldo, who worked concessions on Saturdays throughout the year and by an anonymous benefactor, who matched the amount of money the senior class raised. The books have already been found through a rare-books seller and arrived on campus just a few weeks ago. This summer the school plans to build a glass case in the archives room of the library to house both texts, and at the beginning of next school year look for these books to be opened, a page turned each day.

### Tennessee High School Press Association, sponsored by The University of Tennessee School of Journalism and Electronic Media 2005 Newspaper Awards

#### High School Newspaper Award

*The Bell Ringer*, superior rating in statewide competition

#### Individual Newspaper Awards

##### First Place:

-Clay Cooper, Sports Photo cover of October 8, 2004  
-Kevin Seitz, Review "Friends Don't Let Friends Go to Starbucks," October 8, 2004  
-Caldwell Tanner, Graphic Design/Illustration "Messengers of Beckoning: Season II, Part II" November 3, 2004

"Messengers of Beckoning: Season II, Part II" November 3, 2004

##### Second Place:

-Chris Gioia, Columns "Car of the Issue: Cotton Clark's '94 Explorer," October 8, 2004  
-Pierce Sandwith, Sports Story "Bowling Competes for State Championship," January 3, 2005

##### Third Place:

-Nick Rhoda, Review September 1, 2004  
-Chambliss Shillinglaw, Headlines "Students Outraged by Earlier Starting Time," October 8, 2004  
-Joseph Walcovicz/ Hugo Scott Whittle, Special Event/Section Coverage

"The Art of Wordplay"/ "English is Slightly Different at Winchester," January 3, 2005

##### Honorable Mention:

-Kevin Seitz, Headlines "Friends Don't Let Friends Go to Starbucks," October 8, 2004  
-Kevin Thomas, Features "Rock and Roll is Here to Stay," October 8, 2004

#### Percentage results:

##### 23 entries

44% received recognition  
13% received 1<sup>st</sup> place  
9% received 2<sup>nd</sup> place  
13% received 3<sup>rd</sup> place  
9% received honorable mention

# Class of 2005 College & University Choices

<b>BREWER ADAMS</b> University of the South	<b>COTTON CLARK</b> University of Virginia	<b>JARED HOBBS</b> Tulane University	<b>TRIPP REBROVICK</b> Harvard College
<b>PRESTON ADAMS</b> University of Texas-Austin	<b>WILL COLTON</b> Cornell University	<b>JAMES HOLLIS</b> Furman University	<b>TREVOR REDDING</b> Baylor University
<b>ANDY ALSENTER</b> Vanderbilt University	<b>STUART COOK</b> Furman University	<b>CHAD HUME</b> University of Georgia	<b>NICK RHODA</b> Santa Clara University
<b>BROCK BAKER</b> University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill	<b>CLAY COOPER</b> Arizona State University	<b>CJ HURT</b> Tuskegee University	<b>BARTON SANDERS</b> Wake Forest University
<b>ANDREW BARGE</b> Vanderbilt University	<b>PAUL CROOK</b> Washington and Lee University	<b>MACKETH</b> Auburn University	<b>PIERCE SANDWITH</b> University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
<b>ROB BEASLEY</b> Reed College	<b>JED CRUMBO</b> University of Virginia	<b>PAUL KNOLL</b> University of Georgia	<b>CHARLIE SHARBEL</b> Clemson University
<b>JIM BECKNER</b> Southern Methodist University	<b>SPENCER CUMMINGS</b> Furman University	<b>MICHAEL KOLBE</b> University of Richmond	<b>CHAMBLISS SHILLINGLAW</b> University of Virginia
<b>FORBES BELK</b> University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill	<b>STEVEN DAHL</b> Berklee College of Music	<b>ALEX KOMISAR</b> Boston University	<b>NICK SHOCKEY</b> Trinity University
<b>WILLIAM BENSON</b> University of Georgia	<b>LEWIS DAWSON</b> Choate Rosemary Hall	<b>ALEX TAMBALE</b> Wake Forest University	<b>WADESIMS</b> Belmont University
<b>JOSEPH BIBB</b> Wake Forest University	<b>WILL DELDACHE</b> Davidson College	<b>ERIK LANDMAN</b> Auburn University	<b>WILL SMITH</b> Davidson College
<b>DAVID BILHARTZ</b> Texas A & M University	<b>TYLER DEUTSCH</b> University of Dayton	<b>CURTIS LANE</b> Duke University	<b>CAGESPODEN</b> Clemson University
<b>JOSEPH BIRDSONG</b> Wake Forest University	<b>VANDIEHL</b> University of Alabama	<b>NICK LUNA</b> Southern Methodist University	<b>BILL STRINGFELLOW</b> Loyola Marymount University
<b>MATT BODNAR</b> University of Richmond	<b>MATTHEW DOSHER</b> University of the South	<b>CLARK LUNDY</b> Southern Methodist University	<b>JOSH SUMSLAWSKI</b> University of Georgia
<b>TODD BOND</b> University of Tennessee-Knoxville	<b>JACK EAKIN</b> University of Virginia	<b>DAVIS MARTIN</b> Berklee College of Music	<b>BRIAN SVERUD</b> Massachusetts Institute of Technology
<b>TYLER BOND</b> College of Charleston	<b>LEONARD EDWARDS</b> University of Texas-Austin	<b>BRANSFORD MAXWELL</b> Southern Methodist University	<b>CALDWELL TANNER</b> Wake Forest University
<b>BRAD BOSTON</b> Auburn University	<b>MATTESKIND</b> Tulane University	<b>DEAN MCKENZIE</b> University of Tennessee-Knoxville	<b>GRANT THOMAS</b> Washington and Lee University
<b>CHARLIE BOYD</b> University of the South	<b>MATTHEW EVANS</b> Pennsylvania State University	<b>IAN MCSTERLING</b> University of Maryland-College Park	<b>HUGHES TIPTON</b> Undecided
<b>PATRICK BRADLEY</b> The Ohio State University	<b>BLAKE FRAZIER</b> University of Tennessee-Knoxville	<b>RAY MISHRA</b> Vanderbilt University	<b>REECE TUCKER</b> Vanderbilt University
<b>HUNTER BRANSTETTER</b> Washington and Lee University	<b>CHRIS GIOLA</b> Princeton University	<b>TOM NAGLE</b> Furman University	<b>BENTURK</b> Southern Methodist University
<b>COLIN BRIER-BRAXTON</b> Indiana University	<b>JEFFREY GLASER</b> College of Charleston	<b>BAILEY NEAL</b> Southern Methodist University	<b>JOHN TURNER</b> Gap Year
<b>MATT BUBIS</b> Vanderbilt University	<b>JONATHAN GOTTERER</b> Georgetown University	<b>BEN NORTON</b> University of Dayton	<b>MICHAEL VASILEVSKIS</b> University of Mississippi
<b>WILL BUNDY</b> College of Wooster	<b>TAYLOR GOULD</b> Vanderbilt University	<b>DAVID PASS</b> Vanderbilt University	<b>SCOTT VAUGHN</b> Vanderbilt University
<b>MATT BURCH</b> Wake Forest University	<b>RICHARD GREATHOUSE</b> University of Virginia	<b>DANIEL PATTEN</b> Wake Forest University	<b>DAVID VICTOR</b> University of Colorado-Boulder
<b>RYAN BURNS</b> The Hotchkiss School	<b>BRYANT HAINFELDT</b> Vanderbilt University	<b>TEE PATTERSON</b> Auburn University	<b>JON WALDO</b> Boston University
<b>JONATHAN CANNON</b> University of Chicago	<b>BRIAN HARRIS</b> Vanderbilt University	<b>DEREK PENDERGRASS</b> Carnegie Mellon University	<b>KEVIN WIECK</b> Miami University-Oxford Campus
<b>CLAY CAROLAND</b> University of Texas-Austin	<b>BRENTON HARRISON</b> Howard University	<b>CHRISTOPHER PICKENS</b> Elon University	<b>STEPHEN WIECK</b> University of Alabama
<b>ADAMS CARROLL</b> Reed College	<b>TOMMY HART</b> Auburn University	<b>JAY PILKERTON</b> Yale University	<b>CHRIS WOOLSEY</b> University of Tennessee-Knoxville
<b>MATTHEW CATE</b> Auburn University	<b>PAUL HENDRICK</b> Vanderbilt University	<b>JEREMY PINSKY</b> University of Georgia	<b>JAKE WRIGHT</b> Wake Forest University
<b>MATTHEW CHRISTIE</b> Tufts University	<b>BRENTS HERRON</b> University of Mississippi	<b>ANDREW PITMAN</b> Vanderbilt University	<b>JESSE WRIGHT</b> Washington and Lee University
<b>MATTHEW CLAIR</b> Harvard University	<b>ALAN HIGGINS</b> Naval Academy Prep School	<b>JONATHAN RAY</b> Cornell University	

Thanks to Mrs. Nutkis in College Counseling for this list.



# MBA's Extraneous Information: Six Years of Unnecessary Facts

by CHRIS GIOIA  
Managing Editor

No one can deny MBA's academic rigor, but upon reflecting over my experience at MBA, I realize that I have learned an abundant amount of "useless" information. I will refer to this information with the milder term "unnecessary," however, for fear of angering my teachers.

MBA's classical education begins with a class that any student beyond seventh grade will have taken, Latin I. When asking several students about the unnecessary information they have learned while at MBA, I was surprised to hear many simply respond with one word: Latin. Although I cannot completely agree with this statement, the two years of Latin made mandatory by MBA reveal a wealth of unnecessary information in the subtleties of the class. Who knew that the first declension endings could be sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," or that the second declension endings could be sung to the tune of "Jingle Bells?"

Although many students consider the Latin poetry forced upon us unnecessary, I would first suggest the modernist poetry of William Carlos Williams. I must say, my life was changed after reading his poem, "The Red Wheelbarrow." This poem is as follows: *so much depends upon/ a red wheel barrow/ glazed with rain water/ beside the white chickens.* The cogent image created by this poem is truly phenomenal, yet revolutionary, in its simplicity. In all seriousness, though, this poem could be the most unnecessary piece of information I took from Mr. Moxley's sophomore English class.

My senior English class, however, has provided me with an even more worthless and potentially harmful piece of information. When beginning to work on an AP essay that happened to be an analysis of one of Emily Dickinson's poems, one of my classmates informed me that all of her poems fit the rhythm and tune of the "Gilligan's Island" theme song. To my disbelief this piece of useless information was true, and learning this caused me trouble in analyzing the poem, as every time I read it, I couldn't help but sing along. This example goes to show that not all of the unnecessary information we learn comes from our teachers; we often teach it to one another.

"Supplemental" information is not limited to the realms of Latin and English, however. As a senior in Art I, I have only recently come into contact with what the art department calls the "Form Chart." This diagram, made up of idealistic words such as harmony, balance, and, most importantly, unity, serves as a model for what an art composition should contain and an exercise in memorization. The idea seems nice, but in all honesty I cannot ever remember working on an object and pausing to consult my form chart. This neglect of the form chart, how-

ever, could be the reason that my artwork is surpassed by most of the freshmen in my class.

In Art History, I have also seen new meaning given to the word *unnecessary*. After studying the great works of art produced by the Greeks and the Romans, Art History then dives into what is known as "Early Christian Art." Having become accustomed to breath-taking works such as Myron's "Discobolus," I found the Early Christian art to be extremely anticlimactic. It seemed a crime to be studying Greek sculpture in the same class as Early Christian art, which seems childish and almost disgusting to look at in its primitive forms.

As I dress each morning this spring, I hear the white-throated sparrow chirp its call to "Old Sam Peabody." Yes, I did just identify a bird by its call, and I can only thank Mr. Chenery for this knowledge. In Environmental Science we began to learn birdcalls at the beginning of the year, starting out with several and building up to a relatively hefty list of birds that inhabit Middle Tennessee. This information is entirely unnecessary, although it is somewhat exciting to recognize a bird while walking between classes or to stop for a moment on prom night to identify a bird in a nearby tree.

Although many cannot recognize birdcalls, anyone who has had Mr. Gaither can recognize the word *aphorism* and the significance it carries in his classroom. Every Monday, Mr. Gaither takes time out of class to enlighten his students with such phrases as "No one can rule, except him who can also be ruled," of course including the Latin text. Although these words of wisdom seem unnecessary, they contain valuable lessons, including how to study for major tests covering the entire library of aphorisms.

When asking classmates about the useless information they could recall, I found that some, such as Ben Norton and Charlie Boyd, were quick to identify the stories that Ms. Gulvas told their Earth Science class in eighth grade. Most prominent were stories of her fleeing from a helicopter by riding a donkey and her family's adopting a boy found in a trash can in Brazil. I'll let you be the one to decide the validity of these stories.

Caldwell Tanner was one of the first to suggest Social Awareness meetings as another source of untapped useless information. Most prominent in my memory was a "social awareness" meeting about my retirement plan and how I should trust a financial website titled "Nesteggz.com" with my money. After all, what teenager can deny that replacing an "s" with a "z" is cool? I'm not so sure that I would trust my future assets to this website.

Despite some of this harsh criticism, I in no way intend to offend anyone with this list, as this article is entirely satirical. In the meantime, I'm praying that no Emily Dickinson poem is read at graduation.

## Fiction Serial

### Messengers of Beckoning

#### Epilogue

by CHRIS PICKENS  
Staff Writer

"Did you read the reports that John, Xian, and Achmed turned in?"

"Yes, I did. What do you think? Maybe we could send a team?"

"Perhaps, but we will lose the foothold. Surprise is everything, you know that."

"All too well."

The halls of the Tower of Beckoning were overflowing with people. Milo noticed that it was full not only of what Baal liked to call "Pinewoods," children who had been recently recruited, but also of squad leaders and other Messengers, like him and Baal. Every now and then, one of these other Messengers would salute and smile as Baal and Milo passed, given a respectful berth by the rest of the traffic.

Baal's comfortable presence at Milo's side had only gained in strength over these two years, Milo thought. After all, they had not always been equals. It must have been after the Arthur run that we became close, Milo reflected, sidestepping a squad leader. The man was undoubtedly twenty years his senior, yet muttered a "scuse me, sir" under his breath.

"How empty the Tower was then," Milo said out loud.

"You were thinking about all this again," Baal said with a touch of amusement in his voice. "You keep your mind on that and the outcome of our sparring match will invariably be you on your back."

As they rounded the turn into the armory, which echoed with the sounds of machinery and lecturers and sparring matches off of the silent gray walls, Milo said, "Do you not think back on all we have done? What we have made?"

"You were the first Messenger I brought back alive," Baal said. He repeated this simple phrase so often the Milo was convinced it brought him pride. "I tell you now, that in itself is a sign." Milo could not help but chuckle as they stopped on a practice mat. People all around were stopping what they were doing to come watch the two Lord Commanders face each other. The children especially were curious, and even the elder squad members and Messengers could only nod their heads in anticipated wonderment.

"I always liked seeking the Messengers," Milo said as he wrapped his hands with treated tape. "They always seemed the most aware and the most out of place."

"Then you did not like the challenge of bringing warriors back. When that little rat-like fellow beat you to the ground in two hits... what was his name? Ah, I nearly cried with laughter." Baal barely broke a smile even now.

"You were ever the warrior, Baal."

"And you were ever the peacekeeper, my friend."

They met in the middle. Baal still wore his black, but had removed the coat for now.

He was the only one in the Tower who had not opted for a uniform. Milo thought this fitting, for through all the jumps and travels, he had never changed. It was his uniform.

"We are winning this war, aren't we?" Milo could not keep some of his teenage-self out of these words.

"I don't know," Baal replied, his face close so that the spectators could not hear. "But we are better off than when only three men resisted. When the Tower was empty and hope was scarce."

Milo clapped him on the shoulder.

"Spoarks, that crazy old man, rest his soul," Baal nodded. The old man had not lived to see this resistance, this dedication. "He would have loved to have seen the children."

"Yep. I think he would have."

They backed away from each other to the starting circles. The men, women, and children had grown silent. Milo gazed at the faces, so many of which he had personally guided back to this place, a place they had all seen in their dreams, where they could serve a purpose. Milo had forgotten his home. It had been cleansed by all of the memories of this place. This place he had helped build. He, Baal, and -

"By, the way," Baal called out in his loud, mocking tone, "when the Lady Madeline returns from feudal Japan, kindly remain in Arthur's Hall a while longer than usual. You two tend to run off to the library together without even a decent conversation as a price." Baal smiled.

Milo knew what people were saying about Madeline and him. He did not care. It was in literature and learning that they found the most in common, the most escape. How ironic, Milo thought; the part of life I hated most back then I love more dearly than anything here.

"You know, Baal, reading is useful to men like us."

"That, and no one goes in the library when you two are there."

Milo did not argue, and he felt a mischievous smile leak onto his face. Baal chuckled. If he ever out-insulted Baal, the world would end.

"Come and get me then, and get what is coming to you." Milo brought up his sword, the one he had made for his own jumps with Baal. It was more modern, though, with a simple steel cross-guard and an oddly wrapped handle. Oh, and a little electro-magnetic core for some shock value, thanks to the twenty-fourth century. It was light and fast. Milo had named it Excalibur.

Baal brandished his staff. The whirling ends forced the crowd back a step.

"So be it, Commander."

The two leapt together and a clash like thunderclaps echoed through the Tower, the ring of padded steel.

End

Special thanks to Curtis Lane, Christopher Schuller, Mrs. Anne Christensen, and Caldwell Tanner for making this piece so enjoyable.



# At the Movies With John Rocco: A Review

by JOHN ROCCO  
Staff Writer

## House of Wax

Starring Elisha Cuthbert (*The Girl Next Door*, *Love Actually*, *Old School*), Chad Michael Murray (*Cinderella Story*, "One Tree Hill"), and Paris Hilton (*Infamous Movie Around the Internet*, *Simple Life*). This teen-



slasher movie is probably one of the best horror flicks of 2005. A group of young, model-like teens camps in the woods before going to a football game. When a truck mysteriously appears and one of the teens throws a bottle at it, they wake up the next day with a broken car. The teens split up (sounds like a great idea), and they find a town with a wax museum in it. A killer roams the streets, trying to find new victims to be a part of his wax museum exhibit. *House of Wax* is very similar to the new *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*; so, if you liked that movie, I guarantee you'll love this one.

3.3 out of 4 stars

## Unleashed

Starring Jet Li (*The One*, *Kiss of the Dragon*, *Romeo Must Die*) and Morgan Freeman (*Million Dollar Baby*, *The Sum of All Fears*, *Along Came a Spider*). This action-packed movie has a touching side to it. A merciless criminal takes a young boy and raises him to be a killer. Many years later he escapes after an unfortunate event and finds a piano tuner and his stepdaughter willing to take him in. The young male learns to become a true man and understand the meaning to life without violence. After a month, his master finds him and wants him to continue leading a life of crime. Once again Luc Besson, writer of *The Professional*, has made a smash hit. Although this movie has some of the most incredible action scenes and camera angles, all audiences can appreciate this movie because of the lessons it teaches. I highly recommend seeing this movie before many of the other ones playing.

3.5 out of 4 stars

## Mindhunters

Starring Christian Slater (*Windtalkers*, *Broken Arrow*, *True Romance*), Val Kilmer (*Wonderland*, *Alexander*, *Heat*), and LL Cool J (*S.W.A.T.*, *Any Given Sunday*, *Halloween H20*). This mystery movie is about a group of cops training on an island for the FBI. The training simulation becomes even more intense when cops start being picked off by a sadistic serial killer. Once Christian Slater

dies in the first ten minutes, the movie becomes progressively worse. All of the big-name actors only have brief cameos because they probably realized how bad the movie was. Towards the end, the suspicion of the killer switches around so much that the movie hardly even becomes a mystery at all; instead, it becomes a guessing game. They give maybe one clue at the beginning of the movie that hints towards the real killer. Please save your money, and don't pay for a ticket, rent this movie, or buy it.

1.5 out of 4 stars



## Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith

Starring Ewan McGregor (*Big Fish*, *Black Hawk Down*, *Trainspotting*), Natalie Portman (*Closer*, *Garden State*, *Cold Mountain*), and Hayden Christensen (*Shattered Glass*, *The Virgin Suicides*). This final conclusion of the prologue was much better than *Episode I* and *II*. I don't know too much about *Star Wars*, but I was pretty impressed with *Revenge of the Sith*. I was actually able to stay awake and understand the movie. Even though this movie was well done, I definitely don't think it comes even close to the best movie of the year. If you're a huge *Star Wars* nerd, I recommend that you see it immediately. If you're not into the whole *Star Wars* craze, there are many other movies that you can see.

2.7 out of 4 stars

## Crash

Starring Sandra Bullock (*28 Days*, *The Net*, *Speed*), Don Cheadle (*Ocean's Eleven*, *Swordfish*, *Traffic*), and Brendan Fraser (*Bedazzled*, *The Mummy*, *Blast from the Past*).



Every person should see this powerful movie about the racial conflicts that occur in the United States. The whole movie is about how many ethnically diverse people collide into one another's lives in the city of Los Angeles. Although there are many different stories involving different races, each story somehow intersects with another to form a cycle. *Crash* is definitely a movie that you will continue to remember for years.

3.9 out of 4 stars



(back row l to r) Maclean Grindell, Chase Altenbern, Nelson Berry, Everette Barbee, (middle l to r) Derek Pendergrass, Rob Beasley, Jon Waldo, Martin Wiecek, Brendan Mayhew, (front l to r) Clayton Lainhart, Will Holt, Austin Archer, and Tommy Cortis.

# And the Show Goes On: A Report From the Theater

by MACLEAN GRINDELL  
Staff Writer

Although the year is finally winding down and school is coming to its long awaited end, activity in the theater is still striding full bore. On April 21st the Thespians initiated a new tradition: Shakespeare is read for 24 hours nonstop in the MBA Theater. This Shakespeareathon both honors the birthday of Sir William and raises money for the theater department, as the actors solicit pledges for each hour they stay on the stage.

Contrary to some beliefs, staying up all night reading Shakespeare is quite a feat on several levels. Each play was performed in full costume, and if an actor tried to sneak into the hallway to seek sleep, he was immediately awakened either by the shouting of "Excuse," or by the ear-shattering announcement of the hours left to perform. The end of the marathon featured a full-staged epic battle complete with war paint and kilts and then a rewarding breakfast cooked by the one and only Chef Morrison. The commencement of this tradition was very successful and raised close to \$1500.

Exactly a week after the marathon ended, the annual "One Acts," known for originality and absurdity, premiered, and this year's show *Flaws and Ardor* was no disappointment. This year's directors featured Derek Pendergrass, Rob Beasley, Ben Turk, Jed Crumbo, Matthew Christie, and Grant Thomas, a group of rising directors who should be commended for the hard work and commitment that produced such a wonderful show.

The performance featured a nice blend of theatrical genres, including comedies featuring Chris Pickens, James Schuller, Clayton Lainhart, and Davey Douglas. They played an assortment of hilarious charac-

ters, including a sad, wimpy, hypochondriac portrayed hysterically by Davey with a cocktail-stirrer collection.

Two dramas about technological entrapment and self-consciousness were presented, featuring Jon Waldo, Wade Sims, Tommy Cortis, and newbie Hunter Armistead. After the show, director Derek Pendergrass said, "The cast pulled it together really well in the last week, and I really enjoyed working with them. Choosing the cast was key because they are the ones that find the characters and pull the show together."

Next year's Studio Theater class is projected to be quite a large class, and the competition to prove oneself worthy enough of having the honor to direct will be quite intense. When asked how he decides who directs or doesn't, Dr. Fuller said, "Organization, organization, organization. When it comes to my making the decision about someone directing, I am less concerned about whether they are creative or not because they wouldn't be in the class if they weren't creative. I am more concerned about how they lead their peers. It obviously depends on the size of your cast, but during tech week you really don't want to be worried about getting your props or finding furniture because you need to be focusing on your actors and keeping them calm and collected, giving them a sense that the show is making progress." Dr. Fuller's comments reveal the preparation and toil needed to put together these one-act plays.

On a more serious note: a few MBA students have perversely and infelicitously found it amusing to put a hex on the MBA stage by saying the name of the "Scottish Play" while in the theater. This has been an action actors have tried desperately to prevent for centuries, and those calling out this name are seriously jeopardizing the future safety of our actors and risking the prospect of success for MBA Theater. If they do not end this very real threat, some of us may pull out our voodoo dolls and needles to show them how a curse can really work.

# Music Reviews: Dave Matthews Band, Weezer, Ben Folds, and Ryan Adams and the Cardinals

by KEVIN SEITZ  
Assistant Features Editor

## Ben Folds: *Songs for Silverman*



Ben has found himself a band. Not that it changes much... but he has, and the piano-stomping, tender voice of sincerity is back with his latest. Folds overdubbed most of the instruments in his last release *Rockin' the Suburbs* which brought him into the national spotlight, but the bassist and drummer in the studio with him this time seem to open him up again with relaxed, dancing piano lines and that fuzzy, rolling bass. This is the same Ben as always, and though he's complicated his jazzed-up solos, mixed in some tricky time signatures, and more complex, floating chord progressions, it's the same little voice we've known and loved. Without a serious commitment to listening, roughly half of the tracks are only mediocre and fade past, but with a merry melancholy nevertheless. The single "Landed" and the Elliot Smith eulogy of "Late" stand out as fantastic in this release which solidifies his honest maturity as an artist, and his presence on the national stage.

B

## Dave Matthews Band: *Stand Up*



The Dave Matthews Band hasn't released a studio album since *Busted Stuff*, but with at least four live cd's and Matthews' solo release, they've managed to jam their way to the position of America's most popular band. *Stand Up*, their latest release, costs only a pleasantly surprising ten dollars, but somehow I still feel cheated. Frankly, it has no capture, no rapture; I got

bored halfway through the second track. Vocal harmony seems to be a new focus, with constant undertones and echoing voices that develop into a constant background chatter. Meanwhile, Matthews' voice seems more desperate to fill the spaces than carry any real tune.

In all of the "new songwriting approaches" they've been trying, someone forgot to tell Dave that lyrics do matter. His lyrics lie awkwardly unrestrained and uninspired, making demands that "Everybody Wake Up" but even that title can't rouse any interest. The acoustic guitar's been given repetitive riffs that linger in the background and get annoying, if anything, with their lethargic off-beats. There was a great deal of talk from the band about their new focus on rhythms and grooves, but the titter and tattering of Boyd Tinsley is consistently brought to the forefront of every song, dulling the album's feel. There's a half-attempt at carrying two tracks with a piano; they fall flat. Now I feel bad: despite the gunshots and explosions behind one song, and another about murders, I'm still bored.

C+

## Weezer: *Make Believe*



Weezer can't escape judgment on their latest *Make Believe* without direct references and comparisons to their past, and the ensuing path of disappointment through their four albums. Rivers Cuomo, the Weezer frontman, isn't the same high school nerd churning free-spirited rock about surfing, weed, and 12-sided dice of their debut *Blue Album*, nor could he afford the wrenching introspection of loneliness in *Pinkerton* again. Fans hung on through the inanely sunny half-hour of a *Green Album*, and the formulaic riff-driven pop of *Maladroit*, whose lyrics, Cuomo has admitted, were not intended to make sense.

Finally, this release holds the long-awaited redemption. Each track demands individual attention, with the crunching guitars of pop-punk back in full force. A delicate balance is at work to bring the songs their plain presentation (with no accusations of simplicity), for there is no stepping on toes, or cluttering of elements...they all find their equal places. The solos take their time, preferring to wall in expression than run any scales, and while the lyrics seem at first overly cliché and cheap, stolen from a fifth-grade diary, they grow on the listener like everything else. Rivers is finally singing like

he really means it again. Thank goodness! Except for the tacky "We Are All on Drugs," the 45:15 of *Make Believe* rolls in bold declaration, from the punching "Beverly Hills" opener to the "Haunt You Every Day" ending, that Weezer is definitely back (with all those lovely Beach Boy "woo oohs" to sing along to).

A-

## Ryan Adams and the Cardinals: *Cold Roses*



Adams suffered a tremendous media barrage for his closely-timed three releases of 2003 and 2004 (*Rock N Roll*, *Love Is Hell Pt. 1* and *Pt. 2*) but with this twin disc release and two more albums planned for later this year, he has solidly adopted a position as one of the most boldly unabashed and prolific musicians, such that fans are overjoyed

and everyone else is largely indifferent.

In a parallel closest to his 2000 release *Heartbreaker*, these 18 "alt-country" tracks (there's not a better description I can give) were recorded with the backing of the Cardinals, a five-piece band with whom he's toured for over a year now, and the tone reflects their road-written nature, open to improvisation and variation, but solidly built and coherent. Also newly introduced is Adams' near obsession with Jerry Garcia, whose guitar styles, playful yet unintentional with a haze, find their way into nearly every solo, and the vocals too stand altered by a consciously Garcian attempt.

Arguably overstretched, the album is still remarkably listenable, carrying on through memorable parts and through laments with less direction, and still strangely interesting. Why *The OC* writers have decided to constantly sample his music, I don't understand, but here is another line in the rapidly growing list of his discography that'll keep him from flaring out as an over-written, arrogant, and overblown musician. He should remain as a modestly honest (lyrically anyway) songwriter who realizes that maybe the best approach is nearest his roots, to work in earnest at what he knows best.

B+

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## Debate Completes Very Successful Year at the Tournament of Champions

by **TRIPP REBROVICK**  
Staff Writer

The MBA debate team enjoyed great success this year debating whether and how the United States should increase its support of United Nations peacekeeping operations. For the first time in MBA history, MBA qualified five teams for the Tournament of Champions in May. No other MBA squad has qualified this many teams, and, to our knowledge, no other team in the history of the tournament has qualified more. The five teams attending were Tripp Rebrovick and Alex Lamballe, Kevin Wiecek and Matt Bodnar, Matt Clair and Jonathan Cannon, Jamie Berk and Charlie Sharbel, and Nick Shockey and Kyle Davis.

At the tournament Tripp Rebrovick and Alex Lamballe won all seven of their preliminary rounds, and since they were the only undefeated team, they were the top seed for the elimination rounds. Not only did Alex and Tripp compile the only undefeated record, but they compiled an incredible total of speaker points. Tripp and Alex's team total was six and a half points greater than the next closest team at the tournament, an incredible achievement. Kevin Wiecek and Matt Bodnar finished with four wins and three losses, barely missing the cut to go on to the elimination rounds.

In the individual ranking of the debaters, Tripp was ranked first, earning the Shelton trophy, while Alex was ranked third, giving MBA two of the top three best individual debaters in the nation.

In addition to the debaters not participating at the TOC, the team included juniors Parkes Brittain, Will Proffitt, and Eddie Ebbert and sophomores Harrison Brown, Patrick Mehta, Andrew Eskind, and Donesh Ferdowsi.

In addition to outstanding TOC performances, the team also did well at numerous other tournaments. Highlights: a quarterfinal appearance at Greenhill, semifinals at Wake Forest, first place at New Trier, quarterfinals at St. Marks, closing out the semifinals of the Homewood tournament and winning the sweepstakes award, octofinals and double-octofinals at the Glenbrook, two quarterfinal teams at Ohio Valley, first place at Vestavia, closing out the finals at Samford, and quarterfinals at Northwestern.

The future of the team is very promising. In addition to competing at the TOC (an achievement earned by no fewer than

five sophomores this year), Jamie Berk and Kyle Davis reached the semi-finals of the St. Marks round robin for sophomores. At Woodward, in the novice and junior-varsity national championships, Kyle Davis was named the top speaker, and the team of Kyle and Patrick Mehta reached the octofinals. The novice team, under the direction of Mr. Lester and Vanderbilt Senior Will Otte, com-

**"In the individual ranking of the debaters, Tripp Rebrovick was ranked first, earning the Shelton trophy, while Alex Lamballe was ranked third, giving MBA two of the top three best individual debaters in the nation."**

pleted an impressive record, and the team included freshmen Alec Martin, Robert Awh, Mason Braswell, Rasha Harvey, Jimmy Russell, Matt Sternberg, Garrett Anglin, and Andrew Snow.

In "Lincoln-Douglas" debate, freshman Corey Metzman had a great year. He won novice LD at Vestavia and was in the semifinals at the Woodward tournament. With the graduation of the two seniors on the LD squad, Corey competed on his own with the help of MBA alumnus Spence Patton, who now attends Vanderbilt.

In extemporaneous speaking, the team enjoyed continued outstanding success. In addition to placing second at the Barkley Forum, one of the largest and most prestigious tournaments in the country, senior Jonathan Ray was also invited to the Extemp Round Robin at the Southern Bell Forum for the second year in a row. Invitations are only extended to the top fifteen speakers in the country. Jonathan qualified for the national tournament in June in Philadelphia and is expected to do extremely well.

**The Bell Ringer Congratulates the following gentlemen, who placed in the top 10 at the Regional Math Exam held April 19 at Lipscomb University:**  
Algebra: Karl Mecklenborg (2), Pat Killian (4), Michael Seitz (5), Daniel Todd (6), Harding McCall (9); Geometry: Kenji Alexander (1), Brian Swenson (2), Matt Sternberg (5), Chad Augusty (6), Curtis Lovelace (8); Algebra II: Jonathon Lundy (1), Philip Cynn (2), Daniel Arteaga (3), Austin Branstetter (5); Statistics: Kyle Davis (1), Newton Allen (2), Will Deloache (3), Jamie Fletcher (4), Brock Baker (5), Mark Piana (8); Pre-Calculus: Billy Billington (3), David Wheeler (4), Nabil Saleh (7), David Reynolds (8); Calculus and Advanced Topics: Will Colton (2), Kevin Seitz (4), Matthew Vaughn (6), and Brian Syverud (8).

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## The Best Sushi In Nashville: Ru San's vs. Sam's

by **HUNTER BRANSTETTER & CHRIS GIOIA**  
Features Editor & Managing Editor

Everyone loves raw meat. The sushi phenomenon has swept America, penetrating even the Deep South; in Nashville we find two unique sushi restaurants that stand above the rest. If you happen to find yourself in the mood for this delicacy, we recommend that you make your way to either Ru San's or Sam's Sushi. The choice of which one to choose is the subject of this article, and it's definitely a head-to-head fight.

The first thing you notice upon entering any restaurant is its atmosphere, and in this area the two establishments differ most. The urban feel of Ru San's is reminiscent of a chic Paris or New York bistro. Its booming Abercrombie-esque Electronica and the ambience of soft blue lighting create a comfortable yet lively atmosphere. It doesn't hurt that Ru San's is filled with attractive women and paintings by the venerable Ru San himself. Our only complaint about this hip joint is the lack of authenticity that we noticed as a waiter asked for "more plato, por favor." This Spanglish definitely detracted from the truly Eastern vibe.

The feeling of Sam's "Sushi Dojo," as we affectionately call it, is undeniably authentic. Its closet-sized space combined with the three tables, a bar, and one employee, none other than Sam himself, creates an in-

credibly intimate atmosphere. Moreover, Sam's personal dislike for large crowds and cell phones also allows you to escape from the bustle of downtown Nashville. The constant drone of CNN and the boxes of old newspapers, however, prove that Sam has a broader perspective than the small nature of his restaurant would indicate, and if you are lucky enough to catch Sam at a quiet time, the stories he tells are intriguing enough to justify paying him a visit. A word of caution: Sam's restaurant is more like a side project than a full-time venture, and though the food is worth it, it can take a while. Moreover, Sam still carries with him some old-world Japan sensibilities - he steadfastly refuses to accept tips.

As entertaining as the setting of a restaurant may be, the food decides whether or not it is worth returning to. Both Sam's and Ru San's offer great food at reasonable prices. Ru San's represents the epitome of nouveau-cuisine, blending American standards like fried foods into sushi rolls with delicious results; each unique type of sushi is tasty, if not authentic. On the \$9.75 lunch buffet, besides the various rolls invented by Ru San, you can find Japanese standards such as salmon and fatty tuna sashimi, and more American friendly dishes such as a salad or a few traditional cooked Asian-American foods like cashew chicken and fried rice. Ru San's also has an array of good desserts - watch for the fried bananas.

*continued on p. 9*



## MBA Students Achieve A High Level Of Excellence On Multiple National Language Exams

by MR. ANDERSON GAITHER  
Faculty Advisor

### Latin Students Excel on National Latin Exam

Scores on the National Latin Exam proved once again that MBA's Latin students are among the best in the nation.

One hundred twenty of our students took the national test in Latin I, with eighty-eight of them winning awards. Four were perfect papers, earned by Joseph Walkowicz, Brian Swenson, Connor Shope, and Bradford Norton. We took thirty-three gold medals and twenty-three silvers.

Taking the Latin II National Latin Exam were one hundred four boys from MBA, and ninety-seven won awards. Six earned perfect scores at this level, while fifty-two earned gold medals and twenty-five won the silver. Submitting perfect papers were Taylor Smyth, Jonathon Lundy, Alec Martin, Austin Branstetter, Will Adams, and Robbie Weikert.

From our Latin III classes fifty students sat for the exam, with twenty-three of them winning a gold medal and eight gaining the silver. Perfect papers were earned by Tipper Austin and Harrison Brown.

Forty-five Latin IV and V students from our A.P. poetry classes took the exam, and sixteen won gold medals, while ten gained the silver medal.

MBA's Latin teachers tell *The Bell Ringer* that they are pleased with the results, but not satisfied, and that the percentage of award-winners is indeed high, but that our students can do even better. These teachers include a delightful blend of the old veterans like Dr. Gaffney and Mr. Gaither, younger veterans like Mr. DeYoung, Mrs. Christeson, and Dr. Seay, and the relatively fresh and even younger teachers like Mr. Bernatavich and Ms. Ellery.

In addition to the usual extraordinary results on the National Latin Exam, Dr. Seay's Latin III class entered the Monmouth College Fox Writing Competition. There is an overall winner (which we did not have), and then there are "Honorable Mentions." This year there were about 200 entries from 23 states. Of the 14 Honorable Mentions earned, we received three. The awardees are Davey Douglas, Rich Tompkins, and Jason Wallace.

### Spanish Students Earn High Marks on National Spanish Exam

Ninety-nine percent of MBA's Spanish students at every level placed at or above the national average on the National Spanish Exam. Dr. Springer, Mr. Was, and Ms. Villavicencio all expressed pride in their students for such an outstanding display of their Spanish skills. Dr. Springer speaks for all the Spanish teachers when she says, "We are equally proud of all our students, not just the very top ones. For instance, in Spanish I all twenty-one students placed in the top 20% in the nation. This year for the first time the students worked through the disadvantage of taking the test in a new way: on-line. Beta testing an exam was difficult for the students because they had limited practice for the test. The National Spanish Exam is developed under the supervision of a lady who previously worked at the Monterey National Defense Language Institute, and other directors have worked for the Educational Testing Service. This is a

difficult test, but our students are hard workers and very bright, and I congratulate them all."

In Spanish I, out of 22,239 students taking the exam nationwide, Daniel Arteaga finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the state and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation, David Downing 4<sup>th</sup> in the state and 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation, Mason Braswell 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, Daniel Givens 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, Kafkas Everest 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, Alan Schulman 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, and Nathan Sears 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

In Spanish II, with 21,835 students nationwide taking the exam, Russell Mack finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the state and 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation, Kyle Davis was 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, Chase Altenbern 7<sup>th</sup> in the state, Nick Drinkwater and Brandon Harrington were 9<sup>th</sup>.

In Spanish III, 17,894 students sat for the exam, and our own Eric Beiter finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state and 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Donesh Ferdowsi was 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, while Reece Tucker gained 8<sup>th</sup> place in the state.



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### Junior John Lee Best In the Nation In French

Third-year French student and fabulous pianist John Lee earned a perfect score on the National French Exam, proving himself the best in the country. Thirteen students placed first nationally out of 18,017 entrants nationally in this division.

Madame O'Connell, John's teacher, says of John, "It's rare in a teaching career to teach someone who combines such natural talent for a language with a sincere desire to master it because he loves it. John does everything to make himself better, including

attending Saturday morning conversations with the Alliance Francaise. He's a dedicated student and a pleasure to teach!"

But John was only the leader of a superb group of French students. Here are other French students bringing honor to themselves and to MBA: in French I Jonathan Lundy was third in the state and 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation, Nicholas Jacques was 6<sup>th</sup> in the state, and Mark Piana was 10<sup>th</sup> in the state. On the French II National Exam Hunter Armistead was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state and 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation, Zach Richardson was 5<sup>th</sup> in the state and 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation, and Evan Small was 10<sup>th</sup> in the state. Besides John Lee's 1<sup>st</sup> place, Matthew Doster was 5<sup>th</sup> in the state and 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation in French III.

### Greek Students Receive High Honors on Difficult Exam

The students, we hear from Dr. Gaffney, MBA's Greek teacher, once again did well on the Intermediate Level Greek Examination (there is a Beginning Level examination which MBA chose to skip because it is too elementary, given the amount of material our students cover in this one-year, col-

lege-paced Greek class). Jonathan Ray and Tripp Rebrovick earned High Honors distinction and Michael Kolbe and Nick Luna earned Merit distinction for their performances. Dr. Gaffney applauds their efforts on this higher-level exam.



### Congratulations to MBA Track, which finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the State Meet.

Ryan Burns: 7th in 100M and 5th in 200M

Chambliss Shillinglaw: 6th in 400M, 2nd in Pole Vault

Brock Baker: 7th in 800M, 7th in 1600M, 2nd in 3200M

Rich Tompkins: 3rd in 110M Hurdles, 3rd in 300M Hurdles, 5th in Decathlon

Andy Snyder: 4th in 300M Hurdles, 4th in Pole Vault

Michael Swett: 3rd in Discus

Billy Billington: 5th in Discus

Jay Pilkerton: 7th in Discus

Matt Cate: 3rd in Decathlon

### Baseball Statistics

Final Season Record: 13-16 with 2nd Place Finish in Region Tournament.

#### Top 3 Team Batting Averages:

Brian Harris - .413 with 13 Doubles

Tee Patterson - .364 with 27 RBI's

Nick Power - .344 with 11 stolen bases

Pitching: Todd Miller 6-4 with 3.42 ERA

The Bell Ringer thanks Coach Wims for providing stats throughout the season.

## Underclassmen's Remarks About End of School

by HUNTERBRANSTETTER  
Features Editor

As the seniors' time on the Hill winds down, I feel safe saying most of us look back fondly on our MBA experience. Why shouldn't we? For the last week, while everyone else has been taking exams, we have been enjoying the miracles of exemption, and this was just icing on the cake of being a college-bound senior in the fourth quarter, when, as much as they will deny it, the teachers go easy on you. Moreover, as seniors realize that their time in high school is very limited, I think we begin to appreciate the MBA experience more fully; like the Joni Mitchell song, you don't realize how good something is 'til it's gone.

But what about the underclassmen, the students with at least another year on the hill? While the seniors graduate to a summer of fun before college—an entirely new realm of uninhibited freedom—the rest of the school sits through graduation waiting to embark on a fun-filled three months of summer reading (because MBA students have been trained to pace themselves and as such never save summer reading until the last minute). Not surprisingly, all the underclassmen I spoke to replied as enthusiastically as the seniors about this past year, their summer plans, and their time remaining on the Hill. Here is what some of them had to say:

"All the debaters have fun for a month, then go to camp, then come back and do more work...I'm building a harpsichord for the school somewhere in all of that, too. My summer basically [rocks]."

Not as many people got in trouble for drinking this year—that was good."

"The years seem to go by faster and faster, and time really does fly on the Hill. But in this short time I feel we make friendships that will last a lifetime. Summer plans include not playing MBA Big Red Football, lifeguarding, rock climbing, wrestling at Nationals in Fargo, ND, and getting ready to be a senior."

"Freshman year was pretty dang easy, and I liked taking only 4 classes—that made it even better. This summer I will go on a paddling trip and do summer league."

"This year was fun. It seemed like [the Discipline Committee] didn't have so many cases, so the draconian drinking policy is working. This summer I think I'll hang out with my friends, lifeguard, and try to score some interesting internships."

"This summer I am going on a cruise to some place I have never heard of before. I am playing baseball, reading for summer reading, going to Belle Meade Country Club, and that's about it."

"I'll be playing a whole lot of baseball this summer. My team will be traveling to places such as Indiana, Georgia, and Florida. I probably won't have much other free time for anything else, except for football of course."

"This summer will be spent playing football and then summer baseball. I hope to find time to work...although I probably won't. This past year I learned a lot about high school and how awesome it is. The year flew by thanks to all the parties and events throughout the school's calendar. Hope next year will be as cool as the first."

"Even if I almost failed history, this year was good. Summer will be sweet; I hope I can find a job that's more fun than bagging groceries like I did last summer."

## MBA Football Opens Next Season in First Annual Clinic Bowl "Kickoff Classic"

by JUSTIN HALL  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Clinic Bowl and MBA have become well acquainted over the years. MBA is known for its usually stellar performance on the football field, rewarded with a fairly regular ticket to the Clinic Bowl. The game that has so long been associated with the state title, however, is being moved to August in the fall of 2005.

The state championship game will still take place at the end of the Division II regular season in Murfreesboro, but it will no longer bear the title "Clinic Bowl." The Clinic Bowl is becoming a "Kickoff Classic" for week-zero games. The organizers of the updated Clinic Bowl plan to host different teams every year, and all the money earned from this season-opening clash will go to

the same charity which has always been associated with the name "Clinic Bowl." Just as when the Clinic Bowl was the original state title game, all proceeds will benefit the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital.

The first annual Clinic Bowl "Kickoff Classic" will feature MBA and a talented South Carolina team. Byrnes High School is a three-time returning state champion team hailing from the town of Duncan in South Carolina. The team is quite talented, very athletic, and will prove to be a challenge for the MBA squad. Look for this match-up to make for quite an exciting game as the first in the season. While Head Coach Jeff Rutledge is very excited about the game and the resulting experience for the players, he is most excited "because the money still goes to charity." So mark your calendar and head to Vanderbilt to witness this clash of titans in mid-August.

## FUGGETABOUDIT!

by KEVIN THOMAS  
Staff Writer

Lately, I feel like I'm married to the mob. Everything about the Mafia intrigues me: their clothes, their lifestyles, their relationships, and especially their illegal activity. My fascination with mob movies gives me a vicarious thrill. I don't want to be a part of it at all; in fact, watching them makes me want to keep a safe distance.

It is interesting to notice that some gangster movies, like Brian DePalma's *The Untouchables*, are seen from the perspective of the police, i.e. the good guys versus the bad guys. In other films, however, you view the movie from the perspective of the mobsters. They are portrayed as the good guys, and the police are seen as the bad guys.

Movies like *Donnie Brasco*, *Goodfellas*, and *Casino* are based on events that actually happened to real people. All three of them depict the lives of gangsters beautifully and graphically, showing both their sensitive sides with their families and their violent sides with the people that betray them. For example, in *Casino* the Las Vegas mob boss Nicky Santoro is fixing his

son's breakfast and showing care for him in one scene. And in an earlier scene he is showing a guy's head into a vice.

The movie *Goodfellas*, based on the book *Wiseguy* by Nicholas Pileggi and directed by Martin Scorsese, is one of the best films ever made. *Casino*, another Scorsese masterpiece, based on the novel also written by Pileggi, is as violent as DePalma's 1983 *Scarface*. It shows, in graphic detail, the actual brutality of the Las Vegas Mafia during the '60s and '70s.

Other movies, such as *The Godfather*, *Pulp Fiction*, *Taxi Driver*, *Reservoir Dogs*, and *True Romance*, are fictional gangster movies based on fact. They never fail to both amuse and horrify me.

The Mafia is still making the news today: "Chicago Mafia 'broken' in sting operation April 27, 2005", says a recent Wall Street Journal headline.

My advice to you: watch these well-done gangster movies. Start with *The Godfather*, Francis Ford Coppola's flawless film about the Corleone family, followed by *Goodfellas*, *Casino*, *Pulp Fiction*, and *Taxi Driver*. Even Mr. Whitfield, our trusty guidance counselor, says *The Godfather* is the best movie of all time.

## Ru San's vs. Sam's

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As its setting would indicate, Sam's offers a no-nonsense traditional sushi menu filled with his own delectable versions of rolls with cores ranging from shrimp tempura to eel. On each monstrous plate from Sam, you also get a few chopstick-sized portions of calamari, wasabi, pickled ginger, and kelp. Although largely traditional, Sam offers some special dishes such as the wholly American bagel roll, and his fridge is stocked with Coke, Dasani, and Miller nestled against the bottles of Sapporo and Kirin.

Both Ru San's and Sam's are fairly well-priced. Ru San's lunch buffet offers an incredible blend of delicious foods that find

you still eating long after you are full. Sam's lunch special, two rolls of your choice (18-20 pieces of sushi) and a drink is a steal for \$5, and Sam is more than happy to provide a to-go box for when you inevitably are unable to finish the whole meal. Sam also has a special way of calculating prices which leaves you wondering if you've been undercharged and what ever happened to sales tax. Overall, Sam's is an awesome sushi restaurant, whereas Ru San's is simply an awesome restaurant. Although neither of these establishments is particularly close to MBA - Ru San's is on 12th Avenue South, and Sam's is directly under the Printer's Alley sign downtown - both are well worth the trek and the hassle of parking.



## The Bell Ringer Wishes Dr. Crowell Goodbye

by TAYLOR SHOPE  
Assistant Features Editor

Gentlemen, Dr. Crowell is retiring. He is leaving us forever. Everybody knows about the way that he conducts class, or at least has heard the stories that come from Dr. Crowell's particular style of teaching. Yes, from the not-so-occasional off-color joke to the demerit slip filled out for 69 D's given for a free lap dance, there certainly are many stories to tell about Dr. Crowell. Some of the best stories are the ones that he himself tells his students about the war in the Golan Heights, the best way to build an effective nuclear bomb, or about the parties from last weekend.

Dr. Crowell is an interesting man with many facets, some of which are comical and some of which are serious things that he thinks his students need to learn; and while Physics is his forte, he tends to teach about the subject of life as well. When he was interviewed for this article, one of his pearls of wisdom was that "Students need to learn to laugh at themselves. I had a student one time who totaled his car by wrecking it into a telephone pole after peeling out of the senior parking lot. The class gave him a hard time about it, and I taught him that you just need to take a step back and think about how funny the whole situation really is." When asked about



Dr. Harold Crowell has taught at MBA for 35 years (1965-68, 1973-2005).

his favorite joke to welcome a new class with, he simply gave no comment other than "It's not publishable." His favorite part about teach-

ing high school is that he gets to know the students' personalities. "Every group is different. One year my classes may be very reserved, and the next, they may all be just bursting out laughing at every turn. College isn't like that." Another part that he enjoys, and in fact one of the reasons why he teaches, is seeing the alumni who return after ten or twenty years who have become leaders of the community—especially the ones who were B-level students in high school and have moved on to become successful businessmen and leaders in their societies. "You can see how well the MBA teaching philosophy works for the skills that students need later in life."

Dr. Crowell feels that his retirement will be easy to welcome, but that it will probably be hard to let go of the school after thirty-five years. "In your life there are going to be times when there is no matter of choice, only the right thing to do. There's no celebration, there shouldn't be any pomp and circumstance. I made the decision, and then it was easy to live with and accept after that. I remember the good times better than I remember the bad, and that is the way that I want it to be."

We will miss you, Dr. Crowell. You have spent your life passing on your knowledge and experience to younger generations, and there is no higher calling. Gentlemen, remember what Dr. Crowell has taught you, and thank him if you get the chance.

Compliments  
of a  
Friend

From a Member of the MBA Class of '63



## In Memoriam

*This is the eulogy which Tee Stumb (class of '08) gave at Austin Burchett's funeral. He has allowed The Bell Ringer to print it in memory of Austin Burchett.*

Hello, my name is Tee Stumb, and I have the privilege today of getting to talk about our great friend, Austin Burchett. When my mom heard about the tragic news, she asked a group of us: "Who were Austin's closest friends?"... and without hesitation we all answered, "Everyone." Although this was only his first year at MBA, Austin excelled in making friends quickly and making each of us feel a close friendship with him. I cannot think of a time when he entered a room and did not put everyone in a better mood, or make them laugh. He always wore a smile and had the funniest laugh I think I have ever heard.

Austin quickly became well-respected at MBA, by students and teachers alike. He had that kind of tremendous work ethic that our coaches and teachers probably dream about...he was always in the weight room...getting stronger or running to increase his conditioning, and his grades were always improving in the classroom. He started on the defensive line in football and never let anything through, and he was also a contributing player on the tennis team.

Austin had recently told us that he and his dad were thinking about getting a place closer to school this summer and how excited he was to be closer to many of his MBA friends. I consider myself lucky to be one of those many friends. Austin was one of those kids who never said anything negative about anyone and always was looking to find ways to brighten another person's day. If you measure a person's wealth by his family and friends, then just by looking out here today, I would say that Austin was one of the wealthiest people I have ever known. We love you Austin, and we will never forget you!



**Austin Burchett**  
**1989-2005**

Austin was always in a good mood. When someone would confront him, sometimes even in a negative way, he'd just smile. I believe Austin died a hero. I just wish I could have told him how much he was a hero to me and to many others for always being in a positive mood and always respecting everyone else, even if they did not respect him. I walked by his classroom and every day he would give me a little wink when I walked by, but he'll never be able to do that anymore.

*-Dane Daniels (Class of '08)*

Austin was a guy that could make you laugh at any time. This year during Latin I must admit that a few times I was almost asleep when I would look out of the room and there Austin would be on a bathroom break from study hall, dancing in the halls. Just those simple, everyday acts provided comedy for me and a few others that saw him. And that was the kind of person Austin was; you could be having a terrible day, and then talk to Austin for 2 minutes and your outlook on the day would completely change because of the happiness he always showed.

*-Jim Shaub (Class of '08)*

My memories of Austin Burchett tend to separate into two groups. He made us laugh, and he was committed to pushing himself athletically. Austin always had the ability to put anybody around him in a good mood, but being the joker on the team didn't stop Austin from working extremely hard on the court. Despite his, at the time undiscovered, heart condition, he cut three minutes off of his mile time during a single tennis season, raising the bar for the rest of the team. Thanks for the great memories, Austin. We love you and will miss you forever.

*-Matt Evans (Class of '03)*

Austin Burchett was an incredibly loyal friend. He ALWAYS had something funny to say even at the worst of times. He could always come up with something to do on the spot. Like this one time: when I was over at his house with some other Sumner Academy guys, he decided that it would be a good idea to roll down this really steep hill in side this black drainage tube. Although all of us came out injured in some way, he still put a smile on everyone's face. "Abs" will never be forgotten.

*-Rush Brady (Class of '08)*

Trevor Yarbrough was a scholar, a poet, a musician, a writer, a wonderful free spirit. His involvement at MBA reflected the promise of the best of our students. Trevor's teachers saw in him so many gifts and intelligence that it did not surprise any of us how well he had done in his first year of college. They realized early in his career at MBA that his gifts as a writer and a thinker went far beyond his age. When I read the essay about life and death Trevor had written in 2001, I knew this individual saw fully and deeply into the fabric of this life. Trevor performed on many fields at MBA, but it seems his greatest gift was to serve as a good friend and brother and son to all who knew him. He was loved and appreciated and respected for a life well lived. We will miss his spirit, but our world is enhanced by the beauty and understanding that Trevor contributed.

*-Brad Gioia, Headmaster*

Ever since I first talked with Ro as a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student at MBA, I smiled with appreciation for his goodness and kindness and thoughtfulness. Ro's smile permeated every aspect around him. He had a curiosity about life and its workings that engaged his friends and teachers. I remember listening to him talk about flying. He mastered the skills of aeronautics at an early age, and his accomplishments as a pilot were truly special. Ro's love for and dedication to programs like hockey even sparked the interest of the Dean of Admissions at Rollins College. The Dean called us last week to say how thoughtful and how much of a team player Ro Cheadle was. He recalled when the Florida State team was short one player in a scrimmage against Rollins, Ro volunteered to be a member of the FSU team that day. It is precisely that spirit of give and take and involvement and helping out that define Ro. He was a marvelous friend and brother and son. The community at MBA will miss Ro's goodness and gentleness of spirit and heart. He truly modeled the best attributes of that ideal gentleman.

*-Brad Gioia, Headmaster*



**Trevor**  
**Yarbrough**  
**1986-2005**



**Ro Cheadle**  
**1985-2005**



# Leave-taking Or The Nearly Rolling Stone

Once, laughter lifted here  
The sound of rustled leaves  
And in returning, leaving grieves  
For times I now know near



Once, in silent reverie,  
But never alone in heart,  
Reading dearly, part by part  
My future pedigree



Once, in victory I gazed,  
But not for mine own glory,  
Yes, for my comrade's story  
Felt a nearly heinous haze



Once, I felt the hearts of those  
Who feeling, giving love  
Through the leather of my glove  
Strength weakened overthrows,



If words could fill the gap  
For every facet of a stone,  
Who admittedly has grown  
To a boulder perched on edge,



Tipping to a slope  
Down which all must fall.  
But I don't mourn at all:  
Downhill we all find hope

poem by Christopher Pickens

Caldwell